

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

AS-01 SAM-01 L-03 /033 R

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APPROVED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER

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R 181743Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV (SPANISH YMCA)

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN SPANISH YMCA

1. FRANK KIEHNE, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, NATIONAL YMCA, AND YMCA WASHINGTON COUNSEL LAWRENCE HEWES, III, RECENTLY CONTACTED DEPARTMENT ABOUT REPORTS OF TROUBLE IN SPANISH YMCA (ASOCIACION CRISTIANA DE JOVENES DE ESPANA). ACCORDING TO KIEHNE, SPANISH YMCA WAS RECENTLY TAKEN OVER BY SMALL GROUP OF MEMBERS LED BY FRANCISCO BELLO OF SOUTH BRANCH WHICH DISMISSED MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING DIRECTOR JOSE GALEOTE. POLICY DISPUTES AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WITHIN ORGANIZATION APPARENTLY PRECIPITATED SHAKEUP.

2. KIEHNE HAS LEARNED THAT GOS HAS ALLEGEDLY OFFERED ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO ORGANIZATION, THOUGH IMPLICIT IN THIS OFFER WAS CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL. SOURCE FOR THIS INFORMATION APPARENTLY CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH ADOLFO SUAREZ GONZALES OF UNDP, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF SPANISH YMCA.

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3. KIEHNE DESCRIBED US YMCA AS VERY DISTURBED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL LOAN GUARANTEES TO SPANISH ORGANIZATION. HE

ASKED DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN MAKING DISCREET INQUIRIES IN MADRID OF THE GOS AND/OR OTHER SOURCES TO DISCOVER WHETHER INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COULD BE DEVELOPED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED WHETHER POSSIBLE TO FIND OUT IF GOS PLANNING LEND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND WHETHER THIS WOULD ENTAIL GOVERNMENTAL CONTROLS OVER ORGANIZATION. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE272708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FJSEIDNER/VRM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750401-0961
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751135/aaaabfjp.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROBLEMS IN SPANISH YMCA
TAGS: EINV, EFIN, SP, US, YMCA
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006